

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

1	1	/	2	1	/	2	0	1	4
Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: DeKalb County Continuum of Care		CoC #: GA -508
CoC Representative: Braunwin Camp		Title: Project Coordinator, DeKalb CoC
Phone/Email: (404) 371-2658 / bhcamp@dekalbcountyga.gov		
Person Completing this Plan: Braunwin Camp		Title: Project Coordinator, DeKalb CoC
Phone/Email: (404) 371-2658 / bhcamp@dekalbcountyga.gov		

1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group: Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: DeKalb CoC Veterans Planning Committee	
Principle Members	Affiliation
DeKalb County Community Human & Development Department	Collaborative Applicant for DeKalb Continuum of Care
Atlanta V.A. Vision 7 Staff	Veterans Administration
DeKalb County Continuum of Care Planning Committee	Continuum of Care
DeKalb County Housing Authority	VASH Voucher Distributor
Decatur Housing Authority	VASH Voucher Distributor
Pathways Community Network	HMIS Provider
Project Community Connections	SSVF Priority 1 Grant Holder
Action Ministries	SSVF Priority 2 Grant Holder
United Way of Greater Atlanta	SSVF Priority 2 Grant Holder
Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta	SSVF Priority 1 and Priority 2 Grant Holder
Decatur Cooperative Ministry	SSVF Priority 2 Grant Holder
Atlanta VA Medical Center HCHV Program	Veterans Administration

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of

The DeKalb CoC recognizes the need to accelerate the rate in which Veterans are housed in our community to eliminate all Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. The Continuum of Care is committed to bring together the members of the Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness Veteran Subcommittee to meet on a monthly basis to ensure coordination of housing services and to closely track Veteran homeless data in our CoC. Strategies are developed to assist in meeting the goal to end Veteran Homelessness. One such strategy, that the group has worked on is the CoC Coordinated Intake and Assessment system. The Coordinated Intake and Assessment system was developed with close coordination with the VA. It is set up to allow Veteran households facing housing loss to quickly access needed services without having to call multiple social service programs. The group plans and coordinates an annual Veterans Expo to link Veterans to housing, employment and other support services. The group also serves on the Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness Veterans Subcommittee. The DOEH Subcommittee sets goals and convenes monthly to track shared progress toward re-housing Veterans through the VASH Voucher program, identifies system barriers and provides a forum for case specific review and coordination of pre and post housing services.

The Veterans Subcommittee currently works closely with the VA, SSVF funded agencies, the Housing Authority of Decatur and DeKalb along with the HMIS provider Pathways to track the numbers of Veterans that are housed using VASH vouchers and through other programs. This committee under the lead of the CoC can track Veterans who are currently homeless and continue to work closely with the partners to ensure that all homeless Veterans are accurately tracked through the system.

Additionally, the SSVF funded agencies with shared geography hold monthly meetings hosted by the United Way of Greater Atlanta. These meetings are designed to coordinate the efforts of SSVF providers across the Atlanta Metro area to make sure that they are consistent in implementing any changes and new or ongoing directives and initiatives from the VA. They also discuss strategy development, coordination of overlap and outreach activities. The meetings also provide a forum for agencies to share resources and training. SSVF front line case managers also hold monthly meeting at the VA's Community Resource and Referral Center at Fort McPherson. The case managers meetings are held to share resources, ideas, and collectively staff clients. Agencies that share grants meet quarterly (at a minimum) to discuss issues, program changes and to plan for future program needs.

SSVF providers will use the SSVF tracking tool to create a consolidated list of Veterans that are receiving services in DeKalb.

what information is reviewed during these meetings.

3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography: Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge"), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

Grantee Agency Name	Grant Amount	Total Annual Projected Households	Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing	% of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing
Action Ministries	\$153,000	60	50	83%
Project Community Connections	\$246,000	75	45	60%
Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta	\$91,650	25	20	80%
Travelers Aid of Metro Atlanta	\$250,000	65	45	69%
United Way of Greater Atlanta	\$400,000	72	58	80%
Decatur Cooperative Ministry	\$560,357	205	120	60%
TOTAL	\$1,701,007	502	338	72%

4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance: Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

	Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households	Estimated # of Needing RRH (a)	Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b)	Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c)	Gap (a-(b+c))
Households without Children	359	338	338	0	21
Households with Children	0	0	0	0	0
Total Homeless Veteran Households	359	338	338	0	21

5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?

	All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH)			Chronically Homeless Veteran Households		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Households without Children	9	7	16	3	2	5
Households with Children	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total Households	10	7	17	3	2	5

Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If “Yes”, please describe:

Goals

1. The goal is to have available safe and stable housing for 100% of those who are homeless in DeKalb County We plan to permanently house 280 Vets during the period of November 1st, 2014 – October 31, 2015.
2. The DeKalb CoC will implement strategies to:
 - a) Transition households from homelessness to permanent destinations within 120 days of enrollment into a CoC project.
 - b) Increase positive outcomes.
 - c) Divert entry into homeless service system.
 - d) Decrease returns to homelessness (reduce the number of episodes of homelessness).
3. Other resources such as ESG, Permanent Supportive Housing, HOPWA, CDBG, FEMA and private unrestricted dollars will be used to fill the gap of services to attain the goal to functional zero.

6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System: Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC’s coordinated assessment system (e.g., “All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then....). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:

- a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
- b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

The DeKalb County Continuum of Care in partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA) has developed a coordinated, systems approach to prevent and end Veteran homelessness in DeKalb County. With input from the VA and SSVF funded organizations, the DeKalb Continuum of Care has instituted a coordinated intake and assessment system which utilizes a “No Wrong Door” approach to streamline and expedite the entry of individuals and families at-risk or experiencing homelessness into the homeless service system.

- The DeKalb CIA system allows Veteran households facing housing loss to quickly access needed services without having to call multiple social service programs. Coordinated intake and assessment prevents unnecessary duplication, makes better use of resources and staff time, and connects Veterans with the housing and supportive services they need and are eligible for.
- Veterans may present at any agency within the continuum and trained staff and volunteers will screen and immediately refer applicants to the VA’s Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) at Fort McPherson for full assessment.
- Veterans presenting at an organization funded to provide Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) may receive services directly from that agency. Non SSVF agencies, utilize a standard prescreening form along with the VA client authorization form. Both are emailed or faxed to the VA’s Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) for timely follow up.
- Pathways Community Network Institute (PCNI) provides on-going training and technical assistance to case managers, throughout the continuum, on the use and entry of the DeKalb Coordinated Intake and Assessment Pre-Screening information into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Special emphasis is placed on the screening and referral protocols for Veterans who walk-in to the office or chose not to use access services through the Veterans hotline.
- All Veterans referred to the CRRC or SSVF are served by Veteran specific case managers who conduct an in-depth screening and assessment, as well as case management services for individuals and families both at risk for or experiencing homelessness. Veterans who present for shelter can be screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night. Veterans who have already become homeless can be screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance when it is clear that the Veteran will not be able to resolve their homelessness without assistance.
- Early Veteran identification, prescreening and timely referral to the CRRC or SSVF ensures that Veterans are triaged by Veteran specific case managers and service providers for assessment and referral to timely and appropriate housing and services. This is accomplished through Veteran specific Outreach efforts and the Veteran Hotline. General Outreach Teams work in tandem with SSVF partners.

7. Long-Term System Improvements: Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

- a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC’s planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.
- b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.
- c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

SSVF funds are not available to the CoC for planning and administrative purposes however the CoC has identified ending veteran homelessness as a priority in its Continuum of Care Plan to HUD with the goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2015. The CoC works closely with the VA who is holds a seat on the CoC Board and serves on the CoC Planning Committee. The SSVF agencies all have representation on the CoC Planning Committee or Board and have worked with the CoC in the development and implementation of the DeKalb Coordinated Assessment Model. We are changing the HMIS system to make coordinated assessment easier and provide reports that agencies access easily. Over the next three years the CoC will continue to:

- Form partnerships and increase/strengthen collaborative relationships with Veteran service providers
- Increase access to mainstream benefits (VA service and non-service connected SSI/SSDI, SNAP, etc...)
- Increase employment based income
- Increase the # of households that are stably housed at exit
- Decrease the number of days before clients transition from prescreen to referrals to CRRC via coordinated intake, assessment & referral system
- Maintain ongoing monthly case management efforts and post discharge follow up as needed
- The assigned DeKalb County Outreach worker will conduct monthly outreach and refer all homeless veterans engaged to the CRRC & SSVF agencies.
- Continuously improve and processes and systems to attaining the above activities

8. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

One of the primary challenges identified is the VA's exclusion of the CoC from SSVF meetings and information about the SSVF programs and current events. Additional challenges identified by the SSVF funded providers that would help to improve and strengthen the service delivery include:

- Alignment of HUD and VA policies that will help serve and house veterans
- Coordination of federal requirements that can cause variance in agency productivity
- VA representatives at SSVF Grantee meetings HUD/VASH, GPD, CWT, VAMC
- Inability to place VASH recipients outside of the PHA's jurisdiction
- More participation from the Housing Authority at SSVF meetings
- Lack of flexibility for families to select a residential jurisdiction
- Lack of startup money for veterans along with Veteran income and background barriers
- The need for increasing the inventory of affordable housing options and housing for dishonorably discharged veterans
- Services surrounding addiction, substance abuse, employment, mental health and financial stability.

Our strength includes the fact that the DeKalb County CoC and all of the agencies that serve Veterans in our community are committed to ending Veteran Homelessness. In addition to the agencies with shared geography, all of the agencies and the CoC partners work with entities across multiple jurisdictions to collaborate on ways to end Veteran homelessness. The most recent meeting was hosted by the Atlanta Regional Commission on Homelessness and the discussion was focused on how we as a larger community can work together to help end Veteran Homelessness by 2015. Representatives in attendance included U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, HUD, VA, 5 Continuum of Cares, the Housing Authorities, SSVF agencies, and other homeless service providers.